

April 3, 2017



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BREVARD CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK – THE FLORIDA WAY

**Contact:**

Anita Stremmel  
Anita.Stremmel@flhealth.gov  
321-615-9323

**Merritt Island, Fla.** – This week is National Public Health Week and the Florida Department of Health in Brevard (DOH-Brevard) is giving Floridians an inside look at some of the careers behind public health and the dedicated professionals who do them. Each day, the department will highlight a different area of public health including epidemiology, emergency preparedness and response, environmental health and public health nursing. These fields and many more help the department carry out our mission to promote, protect and improve the health of Florida residents and visitors.

“We are committed to improving the health of all Brevard County citizens and visitors,” stated Maria Stahl, DOH-Brevard Administrator. “And we are fortunate to have many community partners who work with us toward that goal.”

Last year, the department was the first state in the nation to receive national accreditation as an integrated department of health through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Accreditation by PHAS signifies that the department, including the state health office and all 67 county health departments, is meeting national standards for ensuring essential public health services are provided in the community.

For the next two years, the department will focus on several key areas to improve health in our state including increasing childhood vaccination rates, achieving health equity in all communities, developing a high quality trauma service, reducing HIV infection rates, reducing infant mortality rates, decreasing inhaled nicotine use and decreasing licensure processing time for health care professionals.

DOH-Brevard offers many services and programs to protect public health at three clinics throughout the county including

- Maternity program – prenatal care available to all low-income Brevard County residents, regardless of ability to pay.
- Pediatric dental clinics – available to Medicaid eligible and uninsured low-income children.
- Childhood immunizations – available to all children
- WIC services – federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children
- Environmental Health – public education, routine inspections, investigation of complaints and enforcement of laws relating to safety and sanitation

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a withdrawal syndrome experienced by infants who are exposed to drugs in the womb before birth causing a host of problems for babies,

including death. To address this issue, DOH-Brevard, in conjunction with Nemours Children's Health Services and the Space Coast Health Foundation, is hosting a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Summit in April.

Use #ThankAPublicHealthPro on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to recognize a public health professional in your area during National Public Health Week.

For more information about National Public Health Week, please visit [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org). For more information about the different programs and services offered at DOH-Brevard please visit [www.Brevard.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.Brevard.FloridaHealth.gov) or call 321-454-7111.

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).

.